

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: not yet assigned  
Filing Date: not yet assigned  
Applicant: Klaus G. Schmitt  
Group Art Unit: not yet assigned  
Examiner: not yet assigned  
Title: Short-cycle Arc Welding System and Method  
Attorney Docket: 0275M-000869

---

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. **LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION**

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. **COPIES**

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C.  X  Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D.   This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A.  X  Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B.  X  A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1.   See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:
2.   English translations are provided:
3.  X  Other:

International Search Report for PCT/EP02/09760, dated 12/6/2002, 3 pages.

WO 9605015 (corresponding to U.S. Patent No. 6,011,234): This invention appears to be related to a device designed to weld together at two parts using arc welding or resistance welding, in particular pressure arc welding, techniques. An arc is struck across a gap between the two parts, thus causing them to melt. IN order to ensure a very precise defined vertical gap between the parts, the second part is first placed on the first. The final position, determine a program control unit, is measured by means of a travel measurement instrument. Starting from this "position", the bolt is lifted through a freely programmable distance and the main welding current is activated. At the end of the prescribed period of time, the bolt on the second part is moved towards the first part, this movement being carried out under program control. U.S. Patent No. 6,011,234 appears to be equivalent to this European application (a copy of which is attached).

WO 9611767: This invention appears to be related to a stud welding device with an axially displaceable adjusting element for displacement from a front position into a rear position and back, in which a magnetic field and a coil interact in such a way that, when the coil is connected to a controllable current source, an axial

force is produced in order to displace the adjusting element, the movement of which is transmitted to a stud holder, characterized in that the coil is rigidly arranged on a hollow body which is connected to the adjusting element and is arranged axially movably in an air gap between a magnetizable core and a magnetizable sheath, the magnetic field being conveyed via at least one yoke connecting the core and the sheath while passing radially through the coil, the coil exerting on the adjusting element an axial force acting only in one direction as a function of the direction of current during current control.

C.   X   The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

Neue Tucker Technologie. Bolzenschweißen mit System!; dated September 1999 (Brochure in German with translation brochure attached).

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A.        The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A.        **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**: (check only one box)

1.        within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.

2.        within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.

3.   X   before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4.        before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. \_\_\_\_ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c):** (check only one box)

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. \_\_\_\_ No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

2. \_\_\_\_ See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. \_\_\_\_ **37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):**

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. \_\_\_\_ See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. **CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e):** (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

A. \_\_\_\_ each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. \_\_\_\_ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. \_\_\_\_ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

\_\_\_ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. \_\_\_ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. \_\_\_ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2550 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

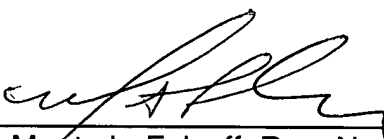
The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2550.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2550.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 20, 2004

By:   
Monte L. Falcoff, Reg. No. 37,617  
Michael J. Lang, Reg. No. 51,120

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.  
P.O. Box 828  
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303  
(248) 641-1600  
MLF/MJL/csd

<p>FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449)</p> <p><b>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b></p> <p><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b></p> <p>(Use several sheets if necessary)</p> <p>Sheet 1 of 1</p>	ATTORNEY DOCKET No.	SERIAL No.
	0275M-000869	not yet assigned
	APPLICANT	
	Klaus G. Schmitt	
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	not yet assigned	not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.		5,252,802	10/1998	Raycher		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes	No
1.		EP 1123769	8/2001	Europe			X
2.		WO 9605015	2/1996	PCT		Abstract	
3.		GB 2092044	8/1982	Great Britain		Abstract	
4.		WO 9611767	4/1998	PCT			X

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)		
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	
1.		International Search Report for PCT/EP02/09760, dated 12/6/2002, 3 pages.
2.		Neue Tucker Technologie. Bolzenschweißen mit System!; dated September 1999 (Brochure in German with translation brochure attached).

Examiner:	Date Considered:
-----------	------------------

EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.